



A Bibliographical Guide to the Study of the Troubadours and Old Occitan Literature

Robert A. Taylor

RESEARCH IN MEDIEVAL CULTURE

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Preface

A Selective Critical Guide

This manual provides orientation and detailed reference for students and researchers over the whole field of medieval Occitan studies. It offers a listing of over two thousand recent books and articles that treat all categories of Occitan literature from the earliest enigmatic texts to the works of Jordi de Sant Jordi, an Occitano-Catalan poet who died young in 1424; it is selective in the sense that the works chosen for inclusion are intended to provide a rational introduction to the many thousands of studies that have appeared over the last thirty-five years in many languages and from many countries around the world; the listings are critical in the sense that descriptive comments have been added to elucidate the nature and the interest of each contribution, with occasional remarks on striking or controversial content and numerous cross-references to identify complementary studies or differing opinions.

Occitan Scholarship in the Twenty-first Century

Although it seemed in the mid-1970s that study of the troubadours and of Occitan literature had reached a sort of zenith, it has since become apparent that this moment was merely a plateau from which an intensive renewal was being launched. Thanks to the advent of electronic research tools and new critical methodologies, research has not only continued but has multiplied in quantity and intensity to the point where it has become difficult for any single scholar to keep up with developments over the whole field. Recent investigations have demonstrated the value of a renewed searching study of the manuscripts themselves, of new ways to combine musicological research with literary and metrical analysis of the lyrics, of psychocritical explorations of subconscious poetic motivations, of intertextual bonds that link lyric and non-lyric genres as well as linking the poets one to another—to name a few of the most fruitful of new orientations. Some scholars have begun to urge the necessity of undertaking a complete renewal of the basic philological editions and linguistic studies so that our knowledge of the language itself and the preserved texts may be placed on a surer footing. The field of medieval Occitan scholarship is clearly a vigorous and continuing one.

Scope

Listings have been limited in general to the last thirty-six years, 1975–2011, except for editions and classic studies that have not yet been replaced; a number of books and articles from 2012 have been included whenever they were accessible to me, but these recent references are far from complete.

An attempt has been made to maintain a certain equilibrium among the various genres, periods, and methodologies over the whole of Occitan literature from the beginnings to the end of the fifteenth century. But since it has also been desirable to follow the actual directions of recent research, there may seem to be an apparent imbalance, for example, between the intensive studies of the troubadour lyrics and the less-frequent publications in the area of non-lyric works, or between the numerous studies devoted to a few of the most popular troubadours (such as Arnaut Daniel, Bernart de Ventadorn, or Guilhem de Peitieu), contrasted with the relative neglect of other less-studied poets, or between the exhaustive analysis of detail in *Flamenca* that has not yet been undertaken for the other narrative works; a compromise has been necessary between an attempt at equilibrium and the actualities of recent publication.

Studies of language have been included only insofar as they may be of practical help in the understanding of the literary texts; however, since the connections between literature and the language in which it is preserved have become ever more apparent, reference should be made to the linguistic bibliographies presented by Kathryn Klingebiel ▶ 14, which cover everything from “pure” linguistics to the edition of Occitan texts.

Similarly, the musicological references have been limited to those that touch on the actual analysis of troubadour songs, although it has become more and more difficult to draw a line between “pure” and “applied” musicology in this context. Other specialized areas such as sociohistory, religious heresy, critical methodology, or psychoanalytical analysis have been listed only insofar as they touch directly on the study of Occitan literary works. Some of these outside areas that touch upon Occitan literature have been mentioned briefly under the separate rubric “Related Fields” ▶ 1606–1789.

Presentation

Under most of the rubrics, one or more essential works are listed first, followed by recent publications in the same field, in alphabetical order. In the listings for individual troubadours, and those for non-lyric works, the most useful edition is given first, along with other studies that deal with editorial questions, followed, in alphabetical order, by studies of various aspects of the poet’s output or analysis of specific literary questions.

Practical Suggestions

This manual is meant to provide a dependable guide to essential publications in the various areas of research in the field. In most cases, it will be easy for readers to establish a more complete retrospective bibliography in specific areas by following backward the references and footnotes in the recent listings provided here, and by completing these by searching forward through perusal of annual bibliographical listings ▶ 4–8 and current periodicals ▶ 84 to update the present material. Useful information may often be found on some of the Internet sites mentioned in ▶ 15, 47–53, 81, 690–91. In addition, it is my intention to provide future supplements

to this manual on the Internet (search for Taylor Occitan Bibliography). Suggestions and queries: roberttayloruoft@gmail.com.

Editions and studies of individual troubadours may be found by direct consultation of the listings (► **1820–3037**) which are arranged numerically according to the standard number adopted from Bartsch by Pillet and Carstens (see ► **1**), with cross-reference to the appropriate PC number whenever the names are out of alphabetical order; reference to specific non-lyric texts and areas of scholarship will require consultation of the contents pages as well as the index; major subdivisions and texts are listed in the former, and less obvious references in the index.

Thanks to those who have contributed to the making of this volume:

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